The convention began on the afternoon of April 29 and lasted until long after midnight. At the end I had almost lost my voice and thought that everybody was equally tired, but the delegates wished to talk on. Side issues were raised—about the Constituent Assembly, the agrarian question, secret treaties.

The convention unanimously—with only two abstentions—voted support of the Provisional Government, but it attached important reservations in the form of "so far as" clauses—so far as the Provisional Government did this and continued to do that. The resolution on war and national defense, reiterating the decision of the All-Russian Convention but with more emphasis on the need to strengthen the army and navy, was adopted by 113 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.

The convention closed with an ovation to the Executive Committee. I went back to Petrograd rested and happy.

THE CLASH ON FOREIGN POLICY

The revolution went on—endless conferences, deputations, enthusiastic resolutions, vehement lamentations in newspapers, meetings and speeches; cheerless days, sleepless nights. The Soviet was at the peak of its glory. The government was doing its everyday job, evading controversial issues, postponing decisions on crucial questions, waiting until the revolutionary storm blew over while loudly proclaiming devotion to the new revolutionary order.

The first open clash between the Petrograd Soviet and the government broke out on the question of foreign policy. The government's declaration of April 10 seemed to have established mutual understanding between the Cabinet and the Soviet about the general orientation of foreign policy. But on April 27 the government announced in the press that it had no intention of approaching the Allies about a joint discussion of war aims or peace terms. The Bolsheviks used this declaration as evidence that the agreement between the Executive Committee and the government was a fraud.

Then the Executive Committee asked the government to hand over the text of its declaration of April 10 to the Allied and neutral governments as the official program of Russia's new foreign policy. The majority of the Cabinet agreed. Instructed to prepare an appropriate note, Miliukov dispatched the government's declaration abroad with a memorandum explaining that the purpose of this action was to put an end to the rumors of Russia's intentions to conclude a separate peace with the enemies, and that the Provisional Government's declaration was in conformity with war aims announced by the Allies

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